

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ARA-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/139 W

-----075868 051437Z /53

R 051224Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2029
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR IN UN
SUBJECT: G K REDDY ARTICLE

1. HERewith AN ARTICLE BY THE WELL-INFORMED "HINDU"
CORRESPONDENT G K REDDY, WHICH APPEARED JUNE 4 ON
THE EVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE FOR THE
U.S.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE WESTERN POWERS HAVE STARTED
STEPPING UP THEIR PRESSURES ON INDIA, ON THE EVE OF
THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS TO BRITAIN AND THE UNITED
STATES, TO ADOPT WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS AN UNDERSTANDABLE
POSITION OVER THE INCREASING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN
AFRICA AND ATTEMPTS TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE IN ASIA TO
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THE SHORES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

3. THE BRIEFS FOR MR. MORARJI DESAI'S TALKS WITH THE
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN, IN LONDON
AND PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP
ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ISSUES LIKE THE RECENT COUP IN
AFGHANISTAN AND THE APPREHENSIONS CREATED IN NEIGHBORING

IRAN AND PAKISTAN, THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AS A SURROGATE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO BUILD UP A NEW ANTI-SOVIET FRONT WOULD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION, ALONG WITH THE OTHER HARDY STAPLES LIKE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, ARMS RACE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

4. IT HAS BEEN MADE AMPLY CLEAR TO BOTH THE BRITISH AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS IN THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS, THAT INDIA IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF A NEW COLD WAR SITUATION IN ASIA AND AFRICA WHATEVER THE PROVOCATION FOR IT. ANY ATTEMPT TO BUILD UP A CORDON SANITAIRE AROUND AFGHANISTAN BY TRANSFORMING IRAN AND PAKISTAN INTO POWERFUL MILITARY BASTIONS OR CONTAIN THE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA THROUGH INCREASED WESTERN INTERVENTION WOULD ONLY LEAD TO A SELF-DEFEATING ARMS RACE IN ASIA AND SHARPEN FURTHER THE RADICAL CONFLICTS IN AFRICA BY GIVING AN IDEOLOGICAL EDGE TO IT.

5. THE INDIAN VIEW IS THAT BY CRYING WOLF TOO MUCH THE WESTERN POWERS MIGHT END UP BY BRINGING THE WORLD - OR THE BEAR TO BE MORE PRECISE - TO THE DOORSTEPS OF THE VERY COUNTRIES WHOM THEY WANT TO SHIELD FROM ITS INSIDIOUS INFLUENCE. IF THE BEST WAY OF PREVENTING THE EXTENSION OF SOVIET SWAY THROUGH AFGHANISTAN TO IRAN AND PAKISTAN IS NOT BY PRECIPITATING A NEW ARMS RACE IN THE REGION,
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THE ONLY COURSE OPEN TO THE WEST FOR FORESTALLING FURTHER CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AT THE BEHEST OF THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT BY DESPATCHING THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGIONNAIRES FROM CORSICA TO DEFEND SOME OF THE WORST REGIMES THERE. THE PRIME MINISTER IS GOING TO TELL PRESIDENT CARTER HIS CHARACTERISTIC BLUNTNESS THAT, UNLESS THE TWO SUPER POWERS COME TO SOME UNDERSTANDING TO OBSERVE MORE STRICTLY WHAT MR. BRZEZINSKI (PRESIDENT CARTER'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER) HAS CALLED "THE CODE OF DETENTE", THE MORE REVIVAL OF THE COLD WAR IN ASIA AND AFRICA IS NOT GOING TO KEEP THE CUBANS OR THE CORSICANS OUT OF THE TROUBLE SPOTS.

6. AS FAR AS INDIA IS CONCERNED, IT IS OPPOSED TOTALLY TO THE PRESENCE OF ANY FOREIGN TROOPS ON ASIAN OR AFRICAN SOIL, WHETHER THEY ARE CUBAN OR RUSSIAN, FRENCH AND BELGIAN, OR BRITISH AND AMERICAN, AND MR. DESAI WILL AMAKE THIS POSITION AMPLY CLEAR DURING HIS VISITS TO LONDON AND WASHINGTON. IT IS INDIA'S CONSIDERED OPINION THAT THE THREAT OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ONE FORM OR THE OTHER WILL REMAIN AS LONG AS THE WESTERN POWERS FAIL IN THEIR MORAL DUTY TO COMPEL THE WHITE RACIST REGIMES IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO RECONCILE THEMSELVES

TO MAJORITY RULE BY COMING TO TERMS WITH
AFRICAN NATIONALISM.

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7. SIMILARLY, THE JANATA GOVERNMENT IS NOT UNAWARE OF
THE APPREHENSIONS IN NEIGHBOURING IRAN AND PAKISTAN
ABOUT THE WIDER REPERCUSSIONS OF THE RECENT COUP IN
AFGHANISTAN. BUT IT GENUINELY FEELS THAT THESE FEARS
CANNOT BE REMOVED BY MERELY SHOUTING FROM HOUSE TOPS
ABOUT THE DANGERS OF COMMUNISM OR COMPLETELY ALIENATING
THE NEW KABUL REGIME BY BRANDING IT AS A SATELLITE OF
THE SOVIET UNION. IT WANTS THE WEST TO CONTINUE AND
EVEN INTENSIFY THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HARD-PRESSED
AFGHANISTAN, SO THAT THE TARAKKI GOVERNMENT DOES NOT
BECOME ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION.

8. THE INDIAN VIEW IS THAT UNLESS THE SHAH OF IRAN
LIBERALISES HIS AUTHORITARIAN RULE AND PAKISTAN SETS ITS
HOUSE IN ORDER, THE DANGER OF INTERNAL INSTABILITY WILL
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CONTINUE TO GROW IN BOTH THESE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF AFGHANISTAN. THE EMERGENCE OF A PRO-SOVIET LEFTIST REGIME IN KABUL WILL CERTAINLY SERVE AS AN INCENTIVE TO THE RADICALS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO STEP UP THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR LIBERALISATION, BUT IT CANNOT BY ITSELF SET THE PACE FOR SOVIET SPONSORED REVOLUTIONS THERE. BUT THE INDIAN ATTEMPTS TO STEER A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN PLACATING THE SHAH IN THE BILATERAL CONTEXT AND KEEPING OUT OF ANY ENTANGLEMENTS IN HIS POLICIES OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY BASED ON A MUTUAL INTEREST IN RESISTING TOGETHER THE THREAT OF SOVIET DOMINANCE HAVE EVIDENTLY DISAPPOINTED HIM. HE WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A RENEWED BID DURING MR. DESAI'S BRIEF STOPOVER IN TEHERAN TO MAKE HIM MORE CONSCIOUS OF THIS COMMON DANGER TO THE REGION.

9. AS REGARDS CHINA, MR. DESAI WILL PROBABLY REAFFIRM THE POLICY OF A STEP-BY-STEP IMPROVEMENT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO INDIA'S STAND ON THE BORDER QUESTION. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR. VAJPAYEE, WHO IS DUE TO GO TO TOKYO IN AUGUST AND MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER WILL PROBABLY PAY A VISIT TO PEKING IN THE LATE AUTUMN TO CARRY FORWARD THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION. BUT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTENTION TO THE RISKS INVOLVED IN WHAT INDIA CONSIDERS TO BE THE NEW U.S. POLICY OF BUILDING UP CHINA AS A QUASI-ALLY OF THE WEST IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO CONFRONT THE SOVIET UNION ON A GLOBAL FRONT IN THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

10. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. V. SHANKAR, LEFT FOR TEHERAN TO-DAY TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR MR. DESAI'S TALKS WITH THE SHAH ON BOTH BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE TALKS IN LONDON WITH MR. CALLAGHAN, UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE A SORT OF CURTAIN-RAISER FOR MR. DESAI'S MORE COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE, IN WASHINGTON. THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IS NOT GOING TO BE THE FOCAL POINT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IN THIS NEW SITUATION OF RAPIDLY CHANGING PRIORITIES, ALTHOUGH IT REMAINS STILL THE BIGGEST HURDLE TO BETTER INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, DR. H.N. SETHNA, HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR WASHINGTON FOR PREPARATORY TALKS AND HE WILL ASSIST MR. DESAI DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT. END

TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, PRESS RELEASES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE08749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780234-0562
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780696/aaaadeor.tel
Line Count: 226
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5b853d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2490168
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: G K REDDY ARTICLE
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, IN, UK, US, UR, UN, (REDDY, G K), (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b853d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014